

## **Reading: Foundational Skills**

- Individualized Spelling Program  
(The Common Core Standards recognize that Spelling/Phonics instruction begins in Kindergarten. Rutgers Preparatory School begins phonics instruction in Pre-Kindergarten. Also, beginning in grade 1, an ‘individualized’ spelling program is introduced. This form of individualized instruction allows students to be challenged at all academic levels.)
- Partner Reading  
(Partner Reading, though not recognized in The Common Core Standards, is an integral part of the RPS Reading curriculum.)
- Challenge/Encourage Students with Above-Grade Reading Choices  
(Grade level reading choices are the norm with The Common Core Standards. Differentiated instruction takes place in the Lower School Classroom, allowing for students to challenge themselves with materials beyond their reading grade level.)

## **Writing**

- Editing Skills  
(Teacher and self editing skills are taught beginning in Kindergarten. The Common Core Standards recognize this skill as beginning in Grade 4.)
- Word Walls  
(Though not mentioned in The Common Core Standards, “Word Walls” for Lower School children in PK, JK, K and Grade 1 are an important addition to the classroom, supporting the writing process by aiding in vocabulary and spelling growth and development.)
- Journal Writing  
(Rutgers Preparatory School values Journal Writing, which begins at the Kindergarten Level. However, The Common Core Standards do not include this as part of the Writing standard.)
- Write, Publish, Illustrate Stories (Handwritten & Computer Based)  
(Publishing and producing illustrated stories begins in the Kindergarten year at RPS. Though writing and illustrating are recognized as part of The Common Core Standards, publishing is not.)
- Narratives, Arguments & Opinions  
(The Common Core Standards suggest Narrative; Argument & Opinion Writings begin in Grade 1, however, at RPS, these forms of writing begin in Kindergarten.)
- Monthly Genre Based Book Reports  
(Many avenues of writing are explored as children, beginning in grade 2, generate

monthly Genre based book reports. These reports allow children to share their knowledge both verbally and in writing. Beginning in Kindergarten, children share books they've read during "Book Sharing" time. Book reports, though important to the RPS curriculum, are not referred to in The Common Core Standards.

- Editorial Writing  
(Many forms of written work are listed in The Common Core Standards; however, editorial writing is not. Rutgers Preparatory School includes editorial writing in its fourth grade Language Arts curriculum.)

### **Conventions of Standard English**

- Public Speaking (Complete sentences when speaking)  
(Public Speaking begins in the Pre Kindergarten classroom; however, The Common Core Standards acknowledge Public Speaking beginning in Kindergarten.)
- Grammar/Usage Accountability (Modeling)  
(Modeling correct Grammar/Usage, both verbally and in written form, begins in Kindergarten at RPS. The Common Core Standards recognize this skill beginning in Grade 3.)

### **Speaking and Listening**

- Formal/Informal Student Presentations/Book Talks/Journal Discussions  
(Student presentations are a daily occurrence in the Lower School at RPS beginning in our Pre-Kindergarten. These formal/informal presentations are not mentioned in the Lower School portion of The Common Core Standards.)

### **Reading: Informational Texts**

- Individualized Reading Programs  
(Students' independent reading skills are all different. RPS recognizes this difference and therefore adapts 'reading for information' materials to meet individual needs. The Common Core Standards reference reading levels related to grade levels.)
- "Time For Kids" – Supplemental Reading/Current Events  
(Supplemental reading materials enhance the reading program at Rutgers Preparatory School. Materials of this type are not referenced in The Common Core Standards.)
- Classroom Research Projects  
(Students begin research projects, using both the Library and the Internet, beginning in Grade 1. Once the classroom research has been completed, finished projects are either hand-written or computer generated using programs such as KidsPix or PowerPoint. Research-based projects at this early age are not part of The Common Core Standards. )

- Academic Note Taking  
(Note taking skills are critical to the success of our students at Rutgers Preparatory School. First grade students are introduced to note taking skills before they begin their first research project. These skills are not referred to in the Lower School portion of The Common Core Standards.)